

BOROUGH HISTORY.

SOME GOOD SUGGESTIONS IN REGARD TO MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

A Decade of Borough Government Reviewed—Relative Basis for Tax Valuations in Borough and Town shown—Promising Outlook for Continued Success of Borough Government.

Arthur J. Lockwood, now Mayor of Glen Ridge, and a former member of the Town Council, and a man held in high esteem in both the borough and the town, was tendered a reception on Tuesday night in the chapel of the Glen Ridge Congregational Church. An interesting feature of the occasion was an address by Mayor Lockwood on "The Borough of Glen Ridge." In citing the causes that led up to the establishment of borough government in Glen Ridge, Mr. Lockwood said:

"For some years, Glen Ridge, part of which was in the Third Ward of Bloomfield, and part in the north end, had been dissatisfied with the conservative attitude of Bloomfield towards modern improvements, and had also felt that it did not obtain its share of such improvements as were already existing. In other words, we received our tax bills with regularity, but most of the money was spent in the village of Bloomfield itself. Owing to the division of Glen Ridge into parts of two Bloomfield wards, it was not easy to make our political influence felt. Much was said on each side, and the situation finally became so intense that certain citizens of that portion of the township of Bloomfield known as Glen Ridge met to consider the advisability of a division of the territory and the formation of a separate government for the westerly portion of the township.

"At a public meeting a committee was appointed to take steps to present to the people the question of organizing a borough government. In pursuance of the statute this committee took the necessary steps to present the question to the people. The question was presented in the form of a referendum, and the people voted in favor of the establishment of a borough government.

"The borough was organized on February 12, 1906. The first meeting of the borough council was held on February 12, 1906. The council consisted of Mayor Lockwood, and two other members. The council has since that time been engaged in the work of governing the borough. The council has been successful in many of its undertakings, and the borough has since that time been a model of good government.

"When Glen Ridge separated from Bloomfield, the slogan of the victorious party was 'Glen Ridge for Glen Ridge,' and in its local matters we may profitably adopt the same cry. Instead of Glen Ridge for either Republicans or Democrats, incidentally, I believe Glen Ridge is never more forcibly attending to its best interests than when trying to do what is fair and reasonable for its neighbors in other municipalities. However, by the new law, and by the awkward new primary law, we had all the elections combined and were compelled to nominate Mayor, Councilmen and Commissioner of Taxes on a party ticket. This happened to be the Republican ticket, as that party is numerically strongest in Glen Ridge. The Democrats, wishing to carry out the desire of almost all in the borough, endorsed and adopted the same ticket.

"Our assessed valuations for the present year are \$2,044,000, of which \$1,770,000 is real estate and \$270,000 personal. The tax rate is \$3 per \$100, and of this sum 90 cents goes to the schools, 60 cents to the county and \$1.50 for the borough's own expenses. These latter cover salaries, roads, sewers, police, fire, water, gas, poor, interest on bonds and borrowed money and meeting an occasional bond as it falls due. I made a year ago some careful calculations respecting our assessments and those of adjoining municipalities, and after seeing many tax bills I reached the conclusion that our real estate assessments were not much over 40 per cent, of real values and those of Bloomfield over 60 per cent. Some of our citizens spoke of Bloomfield's low tax rate, as compared with that of Glen Ridge. If we take Bloomfield's 60 per cent. valuation at the rate of \$3.57 we find the rate equals \$1.54 on real values. If we take Glen Ridge's rate of one year ago—\$3.15 and her 40 per cent. valuation—we find the rate to be \$1.36 on real values, or 22 1/2 per cent. less than that of Bloomfield. I venture to say the average taxpayer looks at the sum total of the bill he has to pay and not at the tax rate.

"Our borough and other municipalities do the same, practically begin its business year without funds, and has to borrow on notes from banks until the taxes begin to come in. We have to pay out over \$2,500 per month in addition to our school and county taxes, and have to pay 4 1/2 per cent. interest to the bank on these notes. This is an expensive

way of conducting business, and if we could possibly double up just for once our taxes, this disagreeable necessity would be abolished. But such a burden would, I imagine, meet with such great objections that the remedy would be regarded as worse than the disease. Our Council keeps its appropriations very close to the danger point, and any such thing as a surplus is, by some of our citizens, regarded with dread. It seems to me a good thing to put on each year's tax bill the cost of that year, and if by economy anything is saved and a surplus results, let that surplus be used to reduce the borrowing necessities of the borough. The borough is pursuing this course, and I believe its condition was never better and more satisfactory than at the close of the administration retiring December 31, 1905.

"With the new year what is known as the Millery tax bill comes into operation. It seems to me an important measure and some think it will be repealed at the next session of the Legislature. For communities like ours, the highest rate our assessors can charge is \$1.50—school 12—per \$100, so for the next year, on present calculations, our valuations for taxing purposes would just be doubled. Of course to the ordinary taxpayer that would make no difference. If I am assessed \$1,000 at 3 per cent. I pay a tax of \$30. If I am assessed for the same property the sum of \$2,000 at 1 1/2 per cent. I pay only the like sum of \$30. But the trouble comes in with the railroad assessments, and the valuations of their main stems by local assessors at local rates. Taxation is a matter worthy of our study, and I would suggest as a profitable thing for us as taxpayers the careful and regular perusal of a good Newark newspaper especially whilst the Legislature is in session. We read regularly the New York papers, but we live in New Jersey, and in order to vote intelligently, should watch the conduct of our legislators and of the measures they advocate. Mr. Underwood, of Bloomfield, represents us in the Legislature at Trenton; R. Wayne Parker at Washington; Thomas McGowan on the Board of Freeholders, and you know who your Glen Ridge officials are. Watch the votes and conduct of these men; prepare yourselves by study to be competent to vote when another election comes.

"The annual meeting of the First Baptist Church of this town and Miss Henrietta Edmonston Martine, daughter of Mrs. Frances Martine of Newark, were married at 8 o'clock on Wednesday night at the home of the bride, 73 Fourth street, Newark, by the Rev. Edwin A. White, pastor of Christ Episcopal Church of this town. The bride was gowned in white silk and carried bride roses. Irving Tunst of Brooklyn was best man, and Miss Lillian Drake, a niece of the bride, of Newark, was flower girl. The bridesmaid, Miss Lillian Drake, a sister of the bridegroom, of Belleville, wore 'point d'esprit' and carried roses. A reception followed, the parlors being prettily decorated with palms and roses. After a tour of the South Mr. and Mrs. Drake will reside at 20 West Nineteenth street, New York.

Disorderly Conduct.
Hubert Hurley, Henry Hurley and G. B. Estelle of Asbury Park came here to spend New Year's with James Hurley, a son of the first named. The quartet made a round of the various saloons and became quite hilarious. They tried to clean out Harry D. McQuinn's place on Bloomfield avenue. McQuinn summoned Policemen Blum and McKean, and it was only after a severe struggle that the four men were landed in the police station. One of them struck Blum in the jaw, and Estelle, in trying to strike the officer, slipped and plunged head foremost against a curbstone, cutting a severe gash in his forehead. Dr. Chahil dressed the wound. Henry Hurley was let off with a reprimand, while the others were fined \$10 each.

First Church Guild.
The next entertainment of the First Church Guild will be held January 15, when Evelyn B. Baldwin will lecture on "The Search for the North Pole, or Life in the Great White World." January 22 Richard A. Purdy will give a lecture on "Shakespeare's 'Othello.'" Tuesday evening, February 6, the Rev. Edward A. Steiner of Iowa College will speak on "Modern Problems in Russia." February 19 Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson, who sank the Merrimack in Santiago harbor, will speak on "The American Navy; Its Brilliant Past; Its Glorious Future." March 12 the closing entertainment will take place, when the Rev. Dr. P. S. Henson of Tremont Temple, Boston, will lecture on "Poets."

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COUNTY VALUATIONS.

Mayor Lockwood of Glen Ridge Expresses an Inequality in the Proportion of the County Tax Burden Borne by Different Municipalities in the County.

Mayor Lockwood in his address before the members of the Glen Ridge Congregational Church, his subject being "What Christ Claimed for Himself." In the evening all the churches in the Bloomfield Evangelical Union will unite in a service in the Glen Ridge Church, when the Rev. George L. Curtis will preach.

The quarterly union services of the Evangelical Union will be held as follows: To-morrow evening union preaching service in the Glen Ridge Congregational Church, with sermon by the Rev. George L. Curtis. Prayer-meeting on Wednesday evening, the 10th inst., in the Baptist Church.

Rev. Dr. C. S. Woodruff will preach in the Park M. E. Church to-morrow morning a New Year's sermon on "The Problems of Life."

The services in the Watseong M. E. Church to-morrow will be as follows: Devotional meeting at 9.30 A. M.; sacrament of the Lord's Supper and reception of members at 10.30 A. M.; subject, "Sacramental Thoughts." Sunday school at 2.30 P. M.; Epworth League at 6.45 P. M.; subject, "Laying Foundations for 1906;" leader, the Rev. S. T. Jackson; preaching at 7.30 P. M.; subject, "A New Year's Message."

The watch-night meeting in the Park M. E. Church last Sunday night was the largest ever held in the history of that church. The addresses by the Revs. George L. Curtis, F. W. Bula and C. A. Cook were most hearty in their fraternal greetings, and full of inspiration for the New Year. The singing was hearty. The new revival books were used, and Miss Florence Hunt presided at the piano.

The Rev. Dr. George A. Paul of Westminster Presbyterian Church will preach in Soho chapel to-morrow evening.

The Christian Endeavor Society of the Park Avenue German Presbyterian Church has elected these officers: President, J. M. H. Kohlmann; vice-president, Frank W. Zidler, Jr.; secretary, Bertha Hochstadt; treasurer, John Weissmann.

The students of the High School are busy preparing for their annual play, to be given on the evening of February 22 and 23, for the benefit of the Athletic Association.

The play this year will consist of two short plays—one a farce and the other a comedy—"The Fatal Messenger," by John Kendrick Bange, and the comedy "The Irish Line Peddler." The High School Glee Club will assist with some very good choruses in "The Irish Line Peddler."

The principal parts in "The Fatal Messenger" are to be taken by Miss Bourne, Mr. Starkweather and Mr. Davis. In "The Irish Line Peddler" by Mr. Stone, Mr. Tydeman and Miss Bartholomew.

The students expect that this play will be a better success than even the plays of preceding years and are working hard for such an end.

To Renew the Fight.
Another effort will be made to have the Glen Ridge Borough Council abolish the \$1,000 compensation received from the Public Service Corporation and thereby get a 5-cent fare to Newark. Montclair has been ready for over a year to waive its right to the \$2,000 which it receives from the trolley company, but Glen Ridge stands in the way. When the matter was discussed in conference by the franchise committees of both municipalities several months ago Mayor Brewer declared that Glen Ridge was not ready to waive its right in collecting the \$1,000 until the State tax equaled that now received from the trolley people.

The Pierson Reception.
Mr. and Mrs. A. Romeyn Pierson of Douglas road gave a reception Thursday night when their daughter, Miss Letitia Madeline Pierson, was introduced into society. They were assisted in receiving by the Misses Beale Baldwin, Ruth Patton, Marjorie West, Dorothy Gage and Leslie Gordon of Montclair. Miss Julia Johnson of New York, Mrs. Charles Baldwin, Mrs. W. S. Gordon, Mrs. Lawrence Braine of Montclair, Mrs. Mary H. Perry of this town, and Mrs. William Pierson of New York. The reception was attended by 300 people from New York, Montclair, Bloomfield, the Oranges and Glen Ridge.

Band Election.
The K. U. V. Freundschafts Band, a German sick benefit society, elected these officers on Thursday night: President, Henry Moser, Jr.; vice-president, Herman Blaschke; secretary, George S. Fernoff; treasurer, John Moser; financial secretary, Peter Fernoff; auditing committee, Ralph Gies, Harry Schwartz and Frederick Finkbecher.

Great Building Year.
The building department of East Orange has just completed the most successful year in the history of the city. The value of permits issued has been \$1,041,860. The permits for new residences in East Orange provide for 400 families, and the houses are being occupied as rapidly as they are constructed.

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By a vote of ten members in the negative and eight voting aye, Everett Mills refusing to vote, as he claimed the organization was meddling in affairs in which it had no concern, the Republican City Executive Committee of East Orange on Tuesday night turned down the following resolution, which had been presented by Franklin W. Fort, the oldest son of J. Franklin Fort:

"Resolved, That the Republican City Executive Committee of the city of East Orange, while firmly of the opinion that the schools of our city should be kept out of politics, nevertheless unqualifiedly disapprove of the action of the Board of Education in drawing the color line in our schools, and call upon that body to remember that a free public school is no place for distinctions of any kind not based solely upon mental ability in the individual."

The resolution had been presented on December 7 and laid on the table. There were two or three votes Tuesday night against taking the measure from the table, but it was brought up on the floor on Mr. Fort's motion, seconded by M. F. Dickerson, Jr.

William F. Ferguson, Edward L. Hearse, William Baldwin and Robert F. Norvis disagreed with the views expressed by Mr. Fort. In their opinion the Board of Education, following the precedent of the vote on the 10th of the committee, and the members of the committee, and there was only one departure, it is said, from the programme agreed upon, and that was the appointment of Harry White, instead of Fred J. Ogden, as member of the Board of Health. Mr. Ogden, it is said, was the conference nominee for the position.

Track Elevation.
Just what the officials of the Lackawanna Railroad expect of Madison borough in connection with their proposed improvements here is not published, but they expect to elevate their tracks upon a solid foundation of masonry practically along their present route through the village to a height of some sixteen feet in places, and to ask Madison taxpayers to share the expense of the undertaking. While Madison people generally will welcome railroad improvements here, bringing with them a better train service and less dangerous crossings, it is a question in many minds whether the proposed elevation will really be desirable, and at most worth paying for. The Lackawanna tracks are so located here, passing as they do through the very center of the village, and so close to some of our best and most prized and expensive public buildings, that the proposed wall will detract very materially from their beauty and value. It seems to us that a depressed track, which some of our most intelligent residents believe might be possible, would be desirable and worth paying for; but it will be well to ponder very carefully the proposed undertaking.

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COUNCIL ORGANIZED.

Deciding that they had exhausted every moral aed, the members of the negro committee in charge of the fight being waged against the East Orange Board of Education over the segregation of colored pupils in primary grades of the East Orange schools, on Tuesday night at a mass meeting held in that city framed a formal petition to County Superintendent of Schools A. B. Meredith asking him to use his office to have the East Orange School Board allow the negro children to return to their proper classrooms, without the color line being drawn. Upon the reply to this petition depends the next step. It is the first move in the legal side of the fight, and if the answer is not satisfactory the members of the committee said that the matter would positively be taken to the courts. Meanwhile the negro classes started by the protestants in the two negro churches in East Orange will be continued.

By a vote of ten members in the negative and eight voting aye, Everett Mills refusing to vote, as he claimed the organization was meddling in affairs in which it had no concern, the Republican City Executive Committee of East Orange on Tuesday night turned down the following resolution, which had been presented by Franklin W. Fort, the oldest son of J. Franklin Fort:

"Resolved, That the Republican City Executive Committee of the city of East Orange, while firmly of the opinion that the schools of our city should be kept out of politics, nevertheless unqualifiedly disapprove of the action of the Board of Education in drawing the color line in our schools, and call upon that body to remember that a free public school is no place for distinctions of any kind not based solely upon mental ability in the individual."

The resolution had been presented on December 7 and laid on the table. There were two or three votes Tuesday night against taking the measure from the table, but it was brought up on the floor on Mr. Fort's motion, seconded by M. F. Dickerson, Jr.

William F. Ferguson, Edward L. Hearse, William Baldwin and Robert F. Norvis disagreed with the views expressed by Mr. Fort. In their opinion the Board of Education, following the precedent of the vote on the 10th of the committee, and the members of the committee, and there was only one departure, it is said, from the programme agreed upon, and that was the appointment of Harry White, instead of Fred J. Ogden, as member of the Board of Health. Mr. Ogden, it is said, was the conference nominee for the position.

Track Elevation.
Just what the officials of the Lackawanna Railroad expect of Madison borough in connection with their proposed improvements here is not published, but they expect to elevate their tracks upon a solid foundation of masonry practically along their present route through the village to a height of some sixteen feet in places, and to ask Madison taxpayers to share the expense of the undertaking. While Madison people generally will welcome railroad improvements here, bringing with them a better train service and less dangerous crossings, it is a question in many minds whether the proposed elevation will really be desirable, and at most worth paying for. The Lackawanna tracks are so located here, passing as they do through the very center of the village, and so close to some of our best and most prized and expensive public buildings, that the proposed wall will detract very materially from their beauty and value. It seems to us that a depressed track, which some of our most intelligent residents believe might be possible, would be desirable and worth paying for; but it will be well to ponder very carefully the proposed undertaking.

May Organize a Republican Club.
Charles Nicolai and others, who have been active in Republican party politics in the Second District of the Third Ward are agitating a movement for the organization of a Republican club in that district. Mr. Nicolai and his associates think that the Republican interests in the district can be better cared for through the medium of a permanent organization that would be influential in selecting candidates for both elective and appointive offices. In all probability a meeting will shortly be